



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

March 26, 2014

The Honorable Maggie L. McIntosh, Chairman  
House Environmental Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Senate Bill 781 – *Environment – Recycling – Special Events*

Dear Chairman McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or “the Department”) has reviewed Senate Bill 781 entitled *Environment – Recycling – Special Events*, and would like to provide our support for the bill and some information regarding the bill’s provisions.

The bill would amend and add to the Environment Article the following provisions:

- County recycling plans would be required to address, by October 1, 2015, the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from special events;
- New § 9-1712 would require an organizer of a special event, including a temporary or periodic use of a public street, publicly owned site or facility, or public park, that serves food or drink to 200 or more expected guests to provide a clearly distinguishable recycling receptacle adjacent to each trash receptacle and ensure that all recyclable materials placed into the recycling receptacles are collected for recycling;
- A county may require special events organizers to report to the county on their recycling activities;
- An enforcement unit, officer, or official of a county, municipality, or any other local government may conduct inspections of a special event location to enforce these requirements.

The Department would incur an additional workload in order to review and approve county recycling plans that must include the new provisions. It is expected that this additional work could be conducted with existing staff. The Department supports increased recycling in Maryland. The concepts proposed in this bill are laudable and MDE hopes to work with the counties to further recycling at special events. As part of the State’s developing zero waste strategy, MDE intends to continue to investigate the best ways to increase recycling in the short term, including deposits on beverage containers, recycling fees on beverage containers, mandatory recycling for bars and restaurants, and extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) style programs in which producers must establish recycling programs. The Department will continue to seek stakeholder input into these evaluations.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 781 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov](mailto:jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

cc: The Honorable Karen S. Montgomery  
Mr. Horacio Tablada, Director, Land Management Administration

